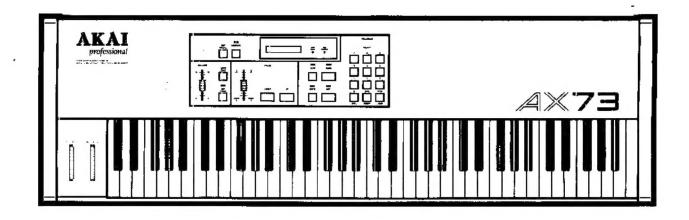




PROGRAMMABLE POLYPHONIC SYNTHESIZER



WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture.

W

Operator's Manual

Warning

Power requirements

Power requirements for electrical equipment differ from area to area. Please ensure that your machine meets the power requirements in your area.

If in doubt, consult a qualified electrician. 120 V, 60 Hz for USA and Canada 220 V, 50 Hz for Europe except UK

240 V, 50 Hz for UK and Australia

What you should know to protect yourself and the Akai AX73.

Watch out! You might get an electric shock.

- Never touch the plug with wet hands.
- Always pull out by the plug and never the cord.
- Only let a qualified professional repair or reassemble the Akai AX73.
 An unauthorized person might touch the internal parts and receive a serious electric shock.
- Never allow a child to put anything, especially metal, into the Akai AX73.

Let's protect the Akai AX73 too.

- Use only a household AC power source. Never use a DC power source.
- If water is spilled on the Akai AX73, disconnect it and call your dealer.
- Make sure that the Akai AX73 is well ventilated and away from direct sunlight.
- To avoid damage to the internal circuits and the external surface, keep away from heat (stoves, etc.).
- Avoid using spray type insecticide near the Akai AX73. It can damage the finish and might ignite suddenly.
- To avoid damaging the finish, never use denaturated alcohol, paint thinner or other similar chemicals to clean the Akai AX73.
- Place the Akai AX73 on a flat and solid surface.

To enjoy the Akai AX73 for a long time, please read this operator's manual thoroughly.

Should a problem persist, write down the model and serial numbers and all pertinent data regarding warranty coverage as well as a clear description of the existing trouble. Then, contact your nearest authorized Akai Service Station, or the Service Department of Akai Electric Company, Tokyo, Japan.

Precautions

FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE UK

IMPORTANT FOR YOUR SAFETY

The flex supplied with your machine will have two wires as shown in the illustration

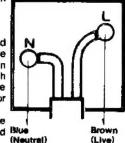
TWO CORE FLEX IMPORTANT

The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:

Blue: Neutral Brown: Live

As the colours of the wires in the mains lead of this apparatus may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug, proceed as follows: The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.

The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked like with the letter L or coloured red.



Do not connect any wire to the larger pin marked E or $\frac{1}{2}$ when wiring a plug. Ensure that all terminals are securely tightened and that no loose strands of wire exist.



CAUTION

RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN



CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK). NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.

magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.



The lightning flash with the arrowhead symbol superimposed across

a graphical representation of a porson, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure; that may be of sufficient



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intented to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

Features

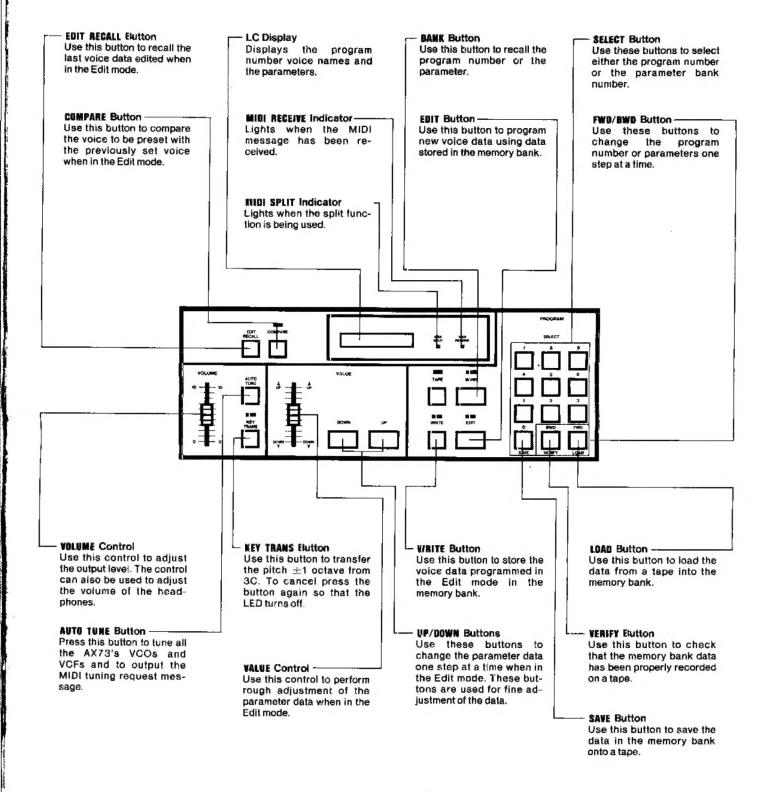
Table of contents

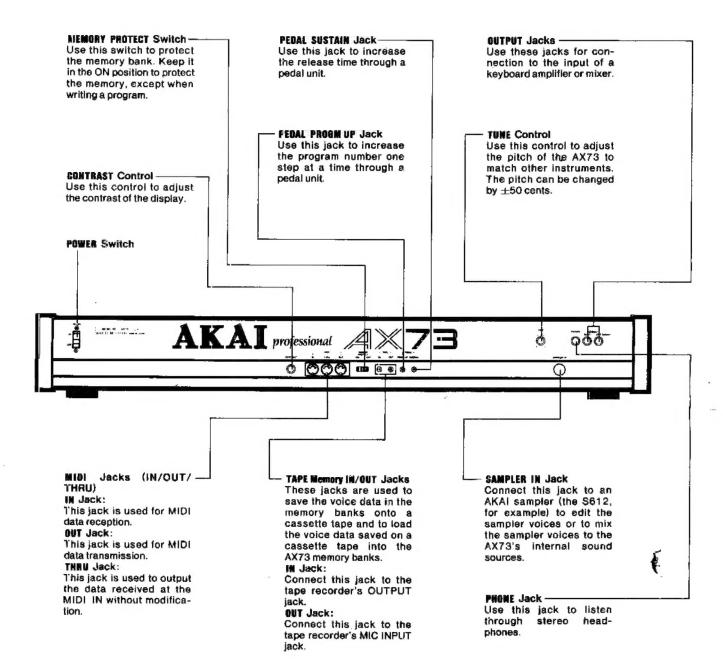
The AX73 is a 73-key 6-voice synthesizer which includes the MIDI split function, and can be used in connection with external sound sources to improve your system.

- Up to 100 types of voice data can be stored in the internal memory.
- The AX73 can be used as a master key-split keyboard by using the MIDI split function to indicate the split point, dividing the keyboard into an upper key section and lower key section, and assigning different external sound sources to these sections.
- A sampler input jack (13PIN/DIN) makes it possible to create new sounds by editing sampler voice data or mixing the sampler voice data with internal sound sources.
- The voice name can be written in up to 12 letters on the display when voice data has been edited.

Warning and Precautions																		,		1
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Controls



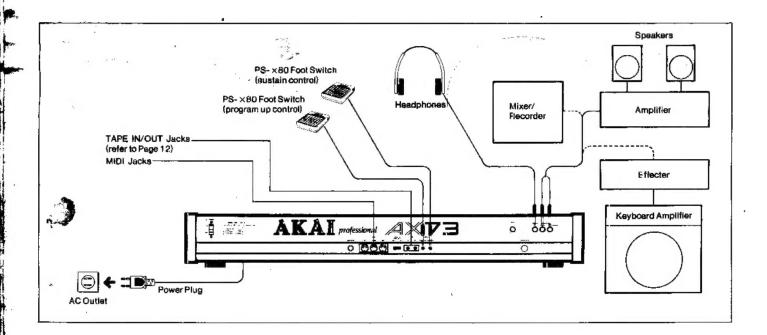


Connections

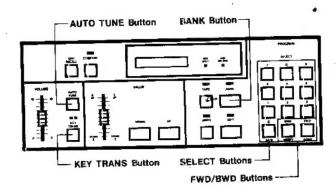
As the AX73 is not equipped with a built-in amplifier or speakers, a separate power amplifier (a keyboard amplifier for example) and instrument speakers are needed.

Before Making Connections

- O Be sure the power is off, or connect the power cord last.
- Insert the plugs firmly into the jacks. Poor connections will result in noise or distortion.
- Hold the plug when disconnecting. Pulling on the cord will damage it.



Operation



PLAY MODE

Turn the POWER switch on.
 The display will read "POO:STRINGS 1".

P00:STRINGS 1

Program Selection

- The preset voices consist of ten banks of ten voices each for a total of 100 voices. (Refer to Page 13 for a list of the voices.)
- 1. Press the BANK button. (The LED will light.)
- 2. Use the SELECT buttons to choose a program number.
- The program number can also be changed one step at a time by pressing the FWD/BWD buttons.

TUNE Control

 Use the TUNE control located on the rear panel to adjust the pitch to the same level as other instruments. The pitch can be changed by ±50 cents (±1/4 tone).

AUTO TUNE Button

- Tunes all the AX73's VCOs and VCFs.
- When connected to other MIDI instruments, sends a tune request message to the slave side.
 - NOTE: This only functions when the instrument on the slave side is equipped with the tune request function.
- Press the AUTO TUNE button. "AUTO TUNE" will appear on the display.
- Once tuning is completed, the "AUTO TUNE" display will go off and the previous display will reappear.
 - NOTE: The time required for auto tuning on the slave side may differ.



Pitch Bend Control

- The pitch and the VCF cut off frequency can be made variable.
- The pitch is variable in semi-tone steps up to a maximum of ±1 octave.
- * Set the bender using the Edit mode parameters. (Refer to parameters E60 and E61.)

Modulation

- The LFO modulation can be made variable.
- o The modulation effect for some voices is small.
- Set the modulation using the Edit mode parameters. (Refer to parameters E62 and E40—44.)

Key Transposal

- Perform the following procedures with the KEY TRANS button depressed. (The LED will light.)
- Press a key to transpose the keyboard to the corresponding musical key.
- When the KEY TRANS button is pressed again, the LED turns off, the transposal is cancelled, and the musical key returns to 3C.
- Press the KEY TRANS button to recall the musical key set in step 2 above.
- The range for key transposal is ±1 octave from 3C. (2C--3C-4C)

Changing the Voice Data Using a Foot Pedal

 When a pedal unit is connected to the PEDAL: PROGM UP jack on the rear panel, the pedal can be used to change the voice data one step at a time while playing the AX73.

Turning Sustain On and Off Using a Foot Pedal

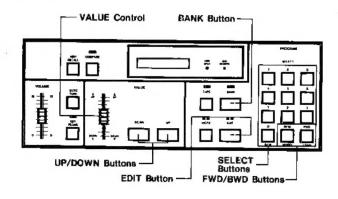
Use this function to hold the release time using a pedal unit.

Edit Mode

Edit Mode

 The Edit mode is used to change voice data stored in the memory to create new voice data.

Basic Editing Operation



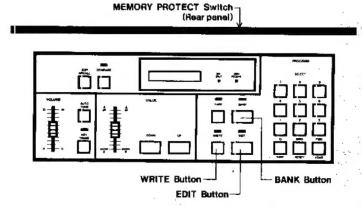
- Use the BANK button and SELECT buttons to choose the program number.
- 2. Press the EDIT button. (The LED will light.)
- Use the BANK button and SELECT buttons to choose the parameter to be changed. The parameters can also be recalled by using the FWD/LOAD and BWD/VERIFY buttons.
- Input the data by using the slide controller or the UP/DOWN buttons.

VALUE Control

Use this controller for rough adjustment of the data. UP/DOWN Buttons

Use these buttons to change the data one step at a time. Use the UP button to turn a parameter on and the DOWN button to turn it off.

Program Writing



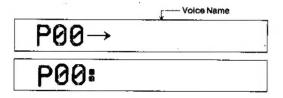
- Programs which have been set can be stored in the memory at program numbers 00—99.
- 1. Press the EDIT button to set the unit to the Edit mode.
- Set the MEMORY PROTECT switch (rear panel) to the OFF position.
- With the WRITE button depressed, press the BANK button (the LED will light), then set the bank number using the SELECT buttons.



(Example: Storing at program number 12)

- 4. When the WRITE button is released, the LED will turn off.
- Press the EDIT button (the LED will turn off) and set to the Play mode.

The "--" mark will appear on the display after the program number. This is to protect the voice data stored at this program number. When any SELECT button is pressed, the edited voice is stored at this program number and the previous voice is erased.



Comparing

- During the Edit mode, the COMPARE button can be used to compare the preset voice with the voice being edited.
- The previous voice can be checked while creating a new sound.
- Press the COMPARE button. (The LED will light.)
 The unit is set to the voice set before the parameters were changed. The parameter on the display changes from E to C.
- When the COMPARE button is pressed, the LED will turn off and the unit will return to the edited voice.

C00

Edit Recall

- Voice data (the last voice data edited) can be recalled by pressing the EDIT RECALL button during the Edit mode. The edit recall function provides convenience for recalling a voice you wish to continue editing in the following instances:
 - When the unit is accidentally set to the Play mode during editing.
 - When the unit is set to the Play mode ouring editing to compare the voice with other voices in the memory.
 - When the unit is set to the Play mode to search for an unnecessary voice to write edited voice data in the memory.

Setting Voice Names

Edited voice data can be given any name using up to 12 letters.

- 1. Press the EDIT button. (The LED will light.)
- Set the MEMORY PROTECT switch (on the rear panel) to the OFF position.
- Next press the BANK button and use the SELECT buttons to set to parameter E80.

E80:__

 Use the UP/DOWN buttons or the VAI_UE control to set letters A—Z or numbers 0—9.

E80:P

Press the FWD button to move the cursor, then press the UP/DOWN buttons or the VALUE control to set the next letter (or number).

E80:PI

6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 to set the voice name.

E80:PIANO

 Next, with the WRITE button depressed, choose the program number under which you wish to set the voice name. The edited voice data has now been given a name.

Parameters

Display	у		
Parame	eter	Data	Description
E00	VCOaOCT (Octave)	2', 4', 8', 16'	Switches the pitch. 8' is the basic pitch. When set to 16' or 4', the range changes by one octave.
E01	VCOaWF (Wave Form)	$N, \Lambda, \Gamma L, \Lambda + \Lambda$	Switches the output waveform.
E02	VCOaPW	0~100	Sets the pulse width. However, operates at waveform selected by E01.
E03	VCOaPWMS	0~100	Sets the PWM depth depending on the pulse wave set by E02 VCOaPW. (NOTE: When E02 is "0", there is no PWM.) This adjusts the PWM speed.
E04	VCOaEG	0~100	Makes it possible to set EG for the VCOs.
E05	NOISE b	OFF/ON	Pink noise is output when "ON".
E06	SAMPLER b	OFF/ON	When AKAI sampler (S-612, etc.) is connected, it can be used as a sound source for the AX73.
E07	a—b BAL (BALance)	0~100	Adjusts output level balance between VCO(a) and NOISE and SAMPLER(b). When "0", only VCO(a) sound is produced, and when "100", only NOISE and SAMPLER(b) sound is produced.
E10	VCF FREQ (Cutoff FREQuency)	0~100	Adjusts the VCF cut-off frequency.
E11	VCF RESO (RESOnance)	0~100	Allows reinforcement of the cut-off point area determined by E10 VCF FREQ (cut-off frequency).
E12	VCF OWFM (Oscillator Wave Form Modulation)	0~100	Oscillator waveform modulation. Adds modulation from the VCOs to the VCFs depending on the waveform selected by E10.
E13	VCF EG	-50~0~+50	Controls the VCF cut-off frequency by EG signal, and changes the previously set VCF cut-off point. 50 ← 0 → +50 VEG EG
E14	VCF KEYF (KEYboard Follow)	0~100	Changes the cut-off frequency depending on the keyboard position. Adjusts the degree of this change.
E15	VCF VELO (VELOcity)	50~0~+50	Adjusts the amount of E13 VCF control by the speed at which the key is struck. (NOTE: When VCF EG is "0", VCF VELO effect is "0".)
E16	HPF (High Path Filter)	0~100	Adjusts the amount of low frequency which passes.

E:20	EG SEL (Mode SELect)	A≠F,A=F	I. When A≠F, the EG effect acts on VCA for E21—24 and the EG effect acts on VCO and VCF for E25—28. (Refer to I) II. When A=F, the EG effect acts on VCA and VCF for E21—24 and on VCO for E25—28. (Refer to II)
I.			
E:21	EGA A (Attack)	0~100	Sets the VCA attack time.
E22	EGA D (Decay)	0~100	Sets the VCA decay time.
E23	EGA S (Sustain)	0~100	Sets the VCA sustain level.
E24	EGA Ft (Release)	0~100	Sets the VCA release time.
E25	EGOF A	0~100	Sets the VCO and VCF attack time.
E26	EGOF D	0~100	Sets the VCO and VCF decay time.
E27	EGOF S	0~100	Sets the VCO and VCF sustain level.
E28	EGOF R	0~100	Sets the VCO and VCF release time.
II.			
E21	EGAF A	0~100	Sets the VCA and VCF attack time.
E22	EGAF D	0~100	Sets the VCA and VCF decay time.
E23	EGAF S	0~100	Sets the VCA and VCF sustain level.
E24	EGAF R	0~100	Sets the VCA and VCF release time.
E25	EGO A	0~100	Sets the VCO attack time.
E26	EGO D	0~100	Sets the VCO decay time.
E27	EGO S	0~100	Sets the VCO sustain level.
E28	EGO R	0~100	Sets the VCO release time.
E30	VCA LEV (LEVel)	0~100	Sets the Final VCA level.
E31	VCA VELO (VELOcity)	-50~0~+50	Adjusts the degree to which the VCAs are controlled by the strength at which the key is struck.
E40	I.FO SEL	OFF,VCO,VCF,VCA	Makes it possible to apply LFO to either the VCOs, VCFs, or VCAs.
E41	L.FO WF (Wave Form)	$\land, \land, \land, \sqcap$ _, RNDM	Makes it possible to select the LFO waveform.
E42	LFO FREQ (FREQuency)	0~100	Adjusts the LFO change speed.
E43	LFO DP (Depth)	0~100	Sets the depth of frequency modulation.
E44	LFO DEL (DELay)	0~100	Adjusts the time required from when a key is pressed until the effect is produced.
E45	CHORUS	OFF, 1, 2	Applies the stereo chorus effect.

E50	ASSIGN	POLY,DUAL,UNI	Sets to 6 chords in the POLY mode, 3 chords in the DUAL mode, and 1 chord in the UNI (unison) mode.
E51	SOL PORT (PORTament)	0~100	Applies the portamento effect in the DUAL or UNI (unison) modes.
E52	DETUNE	0~100	Applies the effect in the DUAL or UNI (unison) modes. Richness and softness can be added to the sound by slightly changing the VCO frequency.
E60	WH BND O (Pitch BeND Range,VCO)	0~12	Makes pitch variable in semi-tone steps. At "12", the pitch is variable by :±1 octave.
E61	WH BND F (Pitch BeND Range,VCF)	0~100	Makes the cut-off frequency variable.
E62	WH MOD (MODulation level)	0~100	Makes the LFO modulation variable. * When "0", LFO is not applied when the modulation wheel is operated.
E70	MIDI SP (SPIIt)	OFF,UPP,LOW	Makes split function selection possible. When UPP (upper), the lower MIDI CH. becomes n+6. When LOW (lower), the upper MIDI CH. becomes n+6. Ex.: When UPP is set for MIDI CH. 2, the lower MIDI CH. is 8.
E71	MIDI SPP (SPlit Point)	1G~7C	Makes it possible to select the split point by pressing a key. The key which has been pressed is indicated on the display.
E72	MIDI CH	1~16	Makes MIDI CH. selection possible. (When E70 is set at MIDI SP UPP, the channel becomes the upper MIDI channel, and when E70 is set at LOW, the channel becomes the lower MIDI channel.)
E73	MIDI PC (Program Change)	ENA,DIS	When set at ENA (enable), the MIDI program change data can be transmitted or received. When set at DIS (disable), the data cannot be transmitted or received.
E80	LABEL	A~Z,0~9, [SPACE], Etc	Makes it possible to input a voice name in up to 12 letters. The cursor is moved by the FWD/BWD buttons, and the letters are selected by the slide controller or the UP/DOWN buttons. (Refer to Page 8)

^{*} The E72 MIDI CH and E73 MIDI PC are common for all 100 programs.

Tape Interface

SAVE/VERIFY/LOAD

The AX73 is equipped with an input and output jack and tape interface functions making it possible to store the parameters set in the program memory on a cassette tape. The tape interface functions include the save mode for outputting the program parameters and recording them on a cassette tape, the verify mode for checking whether the parameters recorded on the tape are correct, and the load mode for resetting the parameters recorded on the tape back onto the AX73.

The programs can be saved, verified, or loaded either one bank at a time or all at once (0 to 99).

- It is advisable to use the same cassette tape and recorder for both recording and playback.
- Do not subject the cassette recorder to shock or vibration when saving or loading, as this will make it impossible to save or load the parameters correctly.
- It is advisable to save two copies of the same parameters (one for backup) in case for some reason one is destroyed.
- It is not advisable to copy the parameters from one tape recorder onto another, as it is sometimes not possible to make correct copies.

CONNECTIONS

Connect a cassette recorder to the AX73 TAPE. IN/OUT jacks.

PROCEDURE

- Saving (Verifying, Loading)
- Set the connected tape recorder to the record mode (Playback mode for Verifying and Loading).
- 2. Fress the TAPE button. (The LED will light.)

TAPE:SELECTS,U,L

 Press the SAVE (VERIFY, LOAD) button.
 "TAPE: SAVE ALL" will appear on the display, indicating that it is possible to save all the programs.

TAPE:SAVE ALL

 To save only one bank, press the UP or DOWN button to select the bank number.

TRPE:SAVE 9

Press the SAVE (VERIFY, LOAD) button. "TAPE: SAVE START" will appear on the display, and counting will start after several seconds.

TAPE:SAVE START

"SAVE END" will appear on the display when all the data has been saved. (In the verify mode, "GOOD" will be displayed.)

TAPE:SAVE END

If there is an error in the verify mode, change the tape recorder's output level and perform the verify operation several times. If there is still an error, change the tape and save the voice data. Also fill in the data for the parameters on a data sheet. If data is for some reason destroyed, use this data sheet and reset the same voice data.

Voice Chart

Program Number	Voice Name	Program Number	Voice Name	
00	STRINGS 1	50	MR BASS	
01	BRASS	51	MICRO BASS	
02	PIANO	52	MINI BASS	
03	SYN CLAV 1	53	PIT BASS	
04	CLAVITAR	54	BASS	
05	MR BASS	55	STEEL DRUM 1	
06	WIND SYN	56	STEEL DRUM 2	
07	ELECTRICITY	57	SCREAMER	
08	STEEL DRUM 1	58	DUAL.	
09	PROFIT \$	59	LEAD 2	
10	PIANO 1	60	VIBE HARP	
11	SYN PIANO A	61	SYN HARP 1	
12	ELEC PIANO	62	SYN HARP 2	
13	SYN PIANO	63	MALLET	
- 14	TOY PIANO	64	CELLESTE	
15	PIANO 3	65	OBI KHANOBE	
16	ROCKY ROAD	66	MUSIC BOX	
17	SYN PIANO	67	STEEL DRUM 1	
18	FM PIANO	68	STEEL DRUM 2	
19	PIANO 1A	69	HARMONIUM	
20	STRINGS 1	70	FUNKY ORGAN	
21	CELLO 1	71	FLUTE:	
22	STRINGS 3	72	RECORDER	
23	CELLO BOW	73	ORGAN 1	
24	STRGS + HORN	74	ORGAN 2	
25	STRINGS 1A	75	PICCOLO	
26	STRING FLUTE	76	GLASS ORGAN	
27	ORCHESTRA	77	CHURCH ORGAN	
28	LOW STRINGS	78	WHISTLE	
29	HEAVEN	79	WOODWINDS	
30	FRENCH HORN	80	LEAD 1	
31	FRENCH HORN 2	81	AHS MALE	
32	HIGH HORNS	82	CLAVITAR	
33	SYN BRASS 1	83	CELLESTE	
34	SYN BRASS 2	84	MUSIC BOX	
35	HORNS 1	85	CLASSIC	
36	HORNS 3	86	TRUMPET	
37	SYN BRASS 3	87	OBI KHANOBE	
38	SECTIONAL	88	SYN PIANO A	
39	HOPEFULL	89	WOODSYNTH	
40	SYN CLAV 1	90	SAMPL + HOLD	
41	SYN CLAV 2	91	INDUSTRIAL	
42	FANCY CLAV	92	PHASER	
43	SYNFUL	93	DEPATCH MODE	
44	RUST BELT	94	HEAVEN	
45	PHASER	95	CELLO	
46	CHAMBER 1	96	STRINGS 1	
47	CHAMBER 2	97	HORNS 3	
48	HARMONIUM	98	QUINCY \$	
49	DEPATCH MODE	99	WIND SYN	

Specifications

Keyboard: 73-key 6-octave C scale (key velocity) Tone generator: VCO (voltage controlled oscillator) Internal memory: 100 programs External Memory: Cassette interface Parameters: VCO Section: Octave (2', 4', 8', 16') Waveform $(\land, \land, \sqcap, \land + \land)$ Pulse width control PWM speed control EG depth control Sampler ON/OFF Noise ON/OFF A-B balance control VCF Section: Cut-off frequency control Resonance control Key follow control VCO modulation control HPF control EG depth and polarity switching (+/-) Key velocity control EG Section: Attack time Delay time Sustain level Release time EG switching (VCF, VCA, VCF=VCA, VCA GATE) VCA Section: Level Velocity LFO Section: LFO switching (VCO, VCF, VCA) Waveform (∕1 , ∧ , ∧ , □ ,RND) Depth control Speed control Delay control Chorus (OFF, 1, 2) Key assign (POLY, UNISON) Bend: VCO (±1 octave) Cut-off frequency (MIN-MAX) Modulation depth (MIN-MAX) MIDI channel (1-16) MIDI split (OFF, 0-6 upper, 6-0 lower) MIDI split point

```
Functions:
     Master level control
     Master tune ON/OFF
     Auto tune control (±50 cents)
     Key transpose ON/OFF
     Memory protect ON/OFF
     LCD contrast control
     Edit control
        Value control volume
        Value UP/DOWN key
        Edit recall ON/OFF
        Compare ON/OFF
        Edit
        Write
        Bank
        Ten key
        FWD/LOAD key
        BWD/VERIFY key
        O/SAVE key
     Pitch bend/cut off frequency wheel
     Modulation wheel
  Display:
     LC display, LED
  External Jacks:
     MIDI (IN, OUT, THRU)
     Sampler IN (13 PIN/DIN)
     Sustain pedal
     Program UP
     Audio OUT (L (MONO), R)
     Headphone (stereo)
     Tape (LOAD/IN, SAVE/OUT)
Dimensions: 1,152 (W) ×110 (H) ×364 (D) mm
Weight: 15 kg
```

 For improvement purposes, specifications and design are subject to change without notice. [Programmable Polyphonic Synthesizer]

Model AX-73 MIDI Implementation Chart Version :1.0

		Transmitted	Recognized	Remarks
Fur	nction			
Basic Channel	Default Changed	1 - 16 1 - 16	1 - 16 * 1 - 16 *	☆ memorized
Mode	Default Messages Altered	MODE 3, MODE 4	MODE 3 × ×	memorized
Note Number :	True voice	24 - 96 ******	0 127 24 - 120	
Velocity	Note ON Note OFF	○ 9nH V=1-127 ○ 9nH V=0 ,8nH	0	
After Touch	Key's Ch's	× ×	×	
Pitch Ber	der	0	0	7 bit RESO
Control Change	1 7 64	O × O	0000	Modulation wheel Volume Sustain foot sw
Prog		O 0 - 99	O 0 - 1.27	
Change :	True #	*****	0 - 99	
System Ex	clusive	×	×	
System : : Common :	Song Sel	× × O	× · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
System Real Time	:Clock :Commands	×	×	
:A11	cal ON/OFF Notes OFF ive Sense set	× O × ×	× O × ×	
Notes			·	

Mode 1 : OMNI ON, POLY Mode 3 : OMNI OFF, POLY

Mode 2 : OMNI ON, MONO Mode 4 : OMNI OFF, MONO 

